

I originally introduced fair warning legislation in the 104th Congress as H.R. 3307. That bill had strong, bipartisan support and it was favorably reported by the Judiciary Committee. I reintroduced the predecessor of this bill in the 105th Congress as H.R. 4049. Many of the same Members who cosponsored that bill are cosponsors of this one, and I thank them for their support and their work on ensuring fairness in the regulatory process.

There is wide consensus that the government and all its agencies should provide citizens with fair warning of what the law and regulations require. Likewise, citizens should be able to rely on information received from the government and its agencies. Though these principles are embodied in the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution, legislation to codify and enforce them in the regulatory context would help ensure that members of the public—in addition to having due process rights—are actually treated fairly.

TRIBUTE TO VERNICE D.  
FERGUSON

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Monday, March 1, 1999*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to a model of excellence, Ms. Vernice D. Ferguson. Vernice Ferguson was a Senior Fellow in the School of Nursing at the University of Pennsylvania holding the Fagin Family Chair in Cultural Diversity. She is immediate Past President of the International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care.

For more than twenty years she served as a top nurse executive at two VA Medical Centers affiliated with academic health science centers in Madison, Wisconsin and Chicago, Illinois. For twelve years, she was the nurse leader for the Department of Veterans Affairs, the largest organized nursing service in the world with more than 60,000 nursing personnel. Prior to the VA assignment, she served as the Chief, Nursing Department of the Clinical Center, the National Institutes of Health.

Ms. Ferguson is a Fellow of the Royal College of Nursing of the United Kingdom, the second American nurse so honored, and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing and Past President. She is Past President of Sigma Theta Tau, nursing's international honor society, and served as Chair of the Friends of the Virginia Henderson Library Advisory Committee.

Her awards and honors are numerous, including seven honorary doctorates. She was the recipient of two fellowships, one in physics at the University of Maryland and the other in alcohol studies at Yale University. She was a scholar-in-residence at the Catholic University of America. Ms. Ferguson was also the Potter-Brinton Distinguished Professor for 1994 at the School of Nursing at the University of Missouri at Columbia. In 1995, Ms. Ferguson spent nine weeks in South Africa where she served as Visiting Associate Professor in the Department of Nursing Science at the University of the North West.

While in South Africa, in her capacity as President of the International Society of

Nurses in Cancer Care, she toured the country extensively, meeting with health care providers in university nursing programs, voluntary associations, hospitals, and homes in townships and squatters camps. She conducted workshops and offered presentations in a variety of settings throughout South Africa.

Ms. Ferguson serves on the Board of Directors of the Bon Secours Health Care System, The Washington Home, the Board of Visitors, Indiana University School of Nursing, and the National Institutes of Health Alumni Association.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that each Member join me in this tribute to Vernice D. Ferguson.

TRIBUTE TO MARY JEANNE  
"DOLLY" HALLSTROM

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Monday, March 1, 1999*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mary Jeanne "Dolly" Hallstrom, a woman of undaunting spirit and a pillar of courage.

Dolly Hallstrom began her journey of public service following World War II, and became actively engaged on behalf of children with disabilities. She founded the National Association for Children with Learning Disabilities in 1963, and was appointed chair in 1965 of the Illinois Advisory Council on the Education of Handicapped Children. She was elected a state representative and served two terms. Since 1991, she has been serving on the Illinois Human Rights Commission.

Dolly Hallstrom remains the consummate public servant and a powerful voice, whose extraordinary and unselfish contributions on behalf of children, the disabled, and women is remarkable. Her life's work to improve the quality of life and to protect the rights of the most vulnerable among us is immeasurable.

I am honored to call Dolly Hallstrom a friend and a mentor.

DO SOMETHING, DON'T JUST BE  
SOMEBODY

(By Grace Kaminkowitz)

No one has nominated a politician for sainthood lately. But some politicians are saintly, despite the recent behavior of Washington types to the contrary. We were exploring the notion that women enter politics to do something while men run for office to be someone. During the course of an interview with Mary Jeanne "Dolly" Hallstrom of Evanston, it became clear how unique she is.

The facts: Dolly started going to nursing school at St. Francis Hospital but love and World War II interfered. She went east supposedly to visit her grandparents but really because her sailor boyfriend was stationed at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. They were married, and after some years they returned to Evanston. Dolly recalls that at the time her nursing school classmates were graduating, she was giving birth to her son, the first of her two children.

In Evanston, she had worked at St. Francis' special needs nursery and was hooked on helping children such as the infants with Down Syndrome.

In the early years of her marriage, she did the usual things such as the junior women's club and being a Girl Scout leader. As time went on, she revived her earlier interest in handicapped children and began working on

their behalf. As she tells it, the time was right to pay attention to their problems. "God had an angel on my shoulder and directed me."

By 1963 she had founded the National Association for Children with Learning Disabilities. Her work was being recognized, and she and other volunteers had begun hearing from people all over the country. By 1965 she was appointed chair of the state's Advisory Council on the Education of Handicapped Children. She was a volunteer lobbyist for handicapped youngsters, so it occurred to her she might make a difference in their lives as a member of the state legislature. She ran as a Republican in 1970, but lost.

In that race, she'd been rebuffed in her quest for precinct lists by the head of the local Republican Party because, he said there already was one Evanston Republican woman in the legislature and that was enough. Dolly remedied that by becoming a precinct committeeman, thus assuring herself access to the lists she needed if she ever ran again.

In 1978, then State Rep. John Porter decided to run for Congress and asked Dolly to run for his soon-to-be-vacant seat. She hesitated because Gordon, her husband of 33 years, was dying of cancer. He urged her to do it, so after he died, she fulfilled her husband's deathbed wish, ran and won.

She served just two terms but made her mark, working with the late Eugenia Chapman, an Arlington Heights Democrat, on the bill that created the current guardianship and advocacy laws for the state. She also proved to be a staunch feminist, backing bills supporting women's equality.

The 1982 census resulted in new districts, and Dolly landed with another Republican. She could have run against him in a primary or against a Democratic in a general election. She liked both potential opponents but ran against the Democrat and lost.

She worked as a protection and advocacy lobbyist for years. Then in 1991 Governor Edgar named her to the Human Rights Commission, which she graces with her wisdom to this day.

None of this would be remarkable if you didn't know that Dolly had a disabling stroke and is paralyzed on her left. She now gets around on a motor scooter. Her disability hasn't kept her from flying to Springfield in small planes.

To arrive on time for a 10 am meeting downtown, she must awaken at 4 or 5 am to get dressed. As if that were not difficulty enough, she also has lost much of her vision and "reads" with a computerized device that speaks the words on a page to her. Despite these limitations, she's always perfectly groomed.

The Biblical Job has nothing on this woman who also has been hospitalized for weeks with shingles and countless other ailments. But when someone commented that no one person should be burdened with so many illnesses, she answers, "God gives them to me because He know I can handle it."

That's what is most remarkable—her undaunted spirit and her resolute refusal to quit even when the odds are all against her. She retains a disposition so bright it's virtually unreal. She's warm and passionate, funny and unfailingly kind. And that's why no one doesn't love Dolly Hallstrom. People, from the most conservative to the most liberal, are all her friends, and all adore her.

There are people who will get their just rewards in heaven. That's assured for Dolly Hallstrom but she deserves all the rewards she can get right now for her continuing contributions to society and for proving how saintly some of our public servants are.